



WOW!!! July 18th 2008 will go down in the annals of AIACV history as a blockbuster event! I think there were about 300 of us at the three pronged celebration – kicking off the opening of our new conference center and gallery, launching the first of what is to be an annual Encounter Design Event, and unveiling of our first Exhibition “Share”. Our new location makes it easier for both members and the public to see us in our role as *the voice* of the architecture profession and *the resource for its members* in service to society. Those few who could hear the comments I made, may have noticed something **peculiar** – for some reason, it just popped up that of the five Points I mentioned, all began with the same letter - of the alphabet. Peculiar indeed.

Progress

This event is a key progress marker in our evolution. About 7 years ago leaders of our 850 member organization began to consider our relevance to the broad community – in times of increasing uncertainty, change, problems and opportunity, the need for thoughtful design is greater than it has ever been – and as members of one of the professions MOST admired and respected by the public – we were as an organization often strangely – silent. That really is strange; because it is a fact, increasingly clear with headlines like that of a few days ago about melting permafrost, that our survival as a community – and as a species - depends on thoughtful design. Buildings after all are where we spend 90% of our time, and they are the single largest contributor toward greenhouse gases and energy use. As an organization, we were not relevant – because – as one of my favorite mantras goes – *if you're not in the room, you're not in the deal*. **We were not in the room.** The leadership of our organization, thanks to Phyllis, Richard, Don, Bruce, Nick, Paul, Bob, Cynthia, Bruce, Virgil, Carl, and others - decided to change that, and that has led to many things, one of which is the

Project

So we've got **progress**, in completing this building **project**. And **People** of course to thank for that ... a lot of **people**. To those who think I didn't mention them – either I messed up – or – you were enjoying the food, drink and conversation more than the remarks!

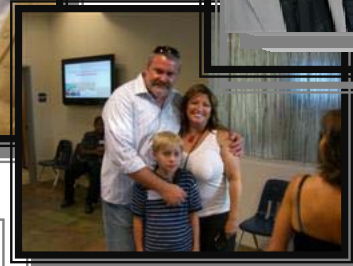
It's a perfect time I think to note, that as architects - admired, respected, powerful and dashing as we are - **Projects** are our greatest strength. **We really know how to make things happen** – but there's a bit of a weakness in being oriented toward successful projects ... and that's because every **project** has a beginning, and finally – because we DO MAKE THINGS HAPPEN – an end! The weakness is that to stay relevant, we have to STAY in the room to be in the deal (not leave the room when the project is completed) ... so ... my fourth P ... is our recognition that the AIACV is more than **progress on**

projects by partnering with people – its really about putting that together, to become part of the **Process**.

Process. That's **P number 4**. The **Process** of our organization, as individuals and collectively - engaged as *partners and participants*, active with both our fellow members and reaching outward to our community and its leaders – many of whom joined us for the celebration! The **processes** that are ongoing will include our gallery space. Our inaugural exhibit for example is based on our members **visions** – for important places that **are**, that **will be**, and that **could have been** - all of which become part of the fabric that shapes us and the places we inhabit. And of course we launched the Encounter Design event – which is but the first in a series that is intended to bring into the spotlight the importance of thoughtful Design to the creation of places that delight us and sustain us ...

Altogether the theme of the AIACV is to engage in a Process of relevance – we are staying in the room we are staying in the deal. That's the AIACV that I'm privileged to be president of.

OH ... the last P??? thats for **PARTY**.



Candid shots: K Malinowski

